

## Spring 2007

The *School Food Services News* is published three times per year (fall, winter and spring) and is available on the School Food Services Web page.

# NEWS

## School Food Services

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**Click here to contact our staff:**

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/staff.html>



## National School Lunch Week 2007



Vote for School Lunch is this year's theme for National School Lunch Week (NSLW) from Oct. 15-19. Kids are encouraged to vote for their favorite school meal online at <http://www.voteforschoollunch.org>.

Students will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite school lunch from a selection of five entrées that research shows are especially popular. This year's five new entrees have been transformed into election candidates that are campaigning for your vote. The online poll will be available soon.

## Summer 2007 Training

Remember to register for the School Food Services Summer 2007 Training. You may choose from the following locations: Jefferson City (July 10), St. Louis (July 12), Springfield (Aug. 1) and Kansas City (Aug. 8). Participants may select up to three different classes from the following topics: Records Class, HealthierUS School Challenge: Recognizing Nutrition Excellence in School, More Fun with Fruits and Veggies!, Offer Versus Serve, Expanding Breakfast & Increasing Nutrition Opportunities, HACCP Therapy — Hot? Or Not?, and Planning and Analyzing Your Own Menus: Nutrient Standard Menu Planning.

For more information, go to <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food> and select Summer Workshops. The registration deadline is May 18, and space is limited.

## Feeding Children in the Summer



There are three options for feeding children in the summer: the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

and School

Breakfast Program (SBP), the Seamless Summer Option, and the Summer Food Service Program. For more information, visit the School Food Services Web site at <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food>.

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## 2007 Breakfast Awards



The Midwest Dairy Council and the St. Louis District Dairy Council are each recognizing schools in their service areas for bringing breakfast to students in creative ways with great results.

Any school (elementary through high school) offering a breakfast service or an expanded breakfast option is encouraged to enter to win a monetary Breakfast Award. More than one school in a district may apply. For additional information, please contact your local dairy council representative. In western Missouri, visit the Midwest Dairy Council's Web site at <http://www.midwestdairy.com>. In central and eastern Missouri, visit the St. Louis District Dairy Council's Web site at <http://www.stldairycouncil.org>. The application deadline is Nov. 30, 2007. Awards will be announced Jan. 7, 2008.

The benefits children receive from eating a nutritious breakfast are numerous and well documented. Eating breakfast yields better test scores, increased concentration and attendance, decreased disciplinary problems, and more. Many schools recognize this opportunity and offer breakfast in the cafeteria. But, there is an even better way to bring breakfast to children – using alternate breakfast service options. Offering breakfast in the classroom or outside of the cafeteria increases participation by providing service to children who arrive late or who prefer to socialize rather than eat. Having breakfast in the classroom helps remove the potential social stigma that the program is only meant for students from low-income families.

## Missouri School Nutrition Association Annual Conference

The Missouri School Nutrition Association's 2007 Annual State Conference will be June 26-28 at the University Plaza in Springfield. Tools You Need for the Kids You Feed is this year's theme. For registration and additional information, visit [http://www.msfsa.net/2007\\_annual\\_conf.htm](http://www.msfsa.net/2007_annual_conf.htm).



### MSNA Web Site

The School Food Services Web site is linked to the Missouri School Nutrition Association (MSNA) (formerly known as Missouri School Food Service Association, or MSFSA) Web site. Check Additional Sites of Interest at the bottom of our home page. For more information about MSNA, logon to <http://www.msfsa.net>.

### National Food Service Management Institute

Every year the National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) presents satellite seminars in April and October and live interactive teleconferences in January and August. Check the link on our home page under Additional Sites of Interest. The NFSMI Web address is <http://www.nfsmi.org>. Click on Educational Opportunities for satellite seminar information.

### Resource Materials

Check out the newest resource information under our Resource button at <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divadm/food>:

- St. Louis Dairy Council
- Midwest Dairy Association
- Missouri Coordinated School Health Coalition

## School Nutrition Association Annual National Conference

This year's national convention will be July 15-18 in Chicago at the McCormick Place Convention Center along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The Windy City offers superior education programming, an opportunity to network with other nutrition professionals, and wonderful sites and shopping. For more information about the convention, please visit <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/anc2007>.

## Orientation to Child Nutrition Management Seminar

The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) is hosting multiple Orientation to Child Nutrition Management seminars for new and aspiring child nutrition program directors on the following dates:

**Date:** May 21-25      **Registration Deadline:** May 7

**Location:** Region One Education Service Center in Edinburg, Texas

**Date:** June 11-15      **Registration Deadline:** May 18

**Location:** National Food Service Management Institute in Oxford, Miss.

**Date:** Aug. 6-10      **Registration Deadline:** July 23

**Location:** Monona Grove High School in Monona, Wis.

College credit is available for the Mississippi location only. For more information, go to <http://www.nfsmi.org> and click on Educational Opportunities.

## Local Wellness Policy: Implementation and Evaluation Training

Be on the lookout for future training opportunities that will be offered across the state to assist Local Education Agencies (LEAs) with the implementation and evaluation of their local wellness policies. These trainings will allow LEAs to hear from other schools that have implemented best practices in Missouri. Learn how these LEAs were able to make changes that positively affected the health and well-being of their student populations. There will be six trainings in the following locations: Eastern Region, Northeast Region, Central Region, Northwest Region, Southeast Region and Southwest Region. Dates and specific locations will be announced through postings on the School Food Services Web site and will be sent via e-mail to the authorized representative in each LEA.

## National School Breakfast Week 2008

Fuel Your Imagination is the theme for National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) 2008, which will be March 3-7, 2008. This NSBW will emphasize starting a student's day with breakfast to fuel imagination and learning. The Fuel Your Imagination campaign will soon be available at <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/nsbw2008/index.htm>.



## Food Safety Inspections in Missouri and Across the Nation



Schools that serve meals under the NSLP and SBP are required to maintain proper sanitation and health standards in conformance with all applicable state and local laws and regulations. In addition, schools are required to obtain two school food safety inspections per school year to be conducted by a state or local governmental agency responsible for food safety inspections (see the Child Nutrition Reauthorization and WIC Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265, at [http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/Historical/PL\\_108-265.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/Legislation/Historical/PL_108-265.pdf)).

Public Law 108-265, Section 111, also states that schools are required to post the latest inspection report in a visible location and make it available to the public upon request. This law also requires State Agencies that administer child nutrition programs to report to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) the number of inspections obtained by each school in each LEA for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

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Reports submitted by the State Agencies for the 2005-06 school year indicated the following:

Number of Schools	Percentage of School Inspections Conducted
57,450	57 percent of schools had two or more inspections
27,184	27 percent of schools reported one inspection
9,498	9 percent of schools reported zero inspections
7,309	7 percent of schools did not report data

Missouri indicated the following results out of 2,103 schools:

Number of Schools	Percentage of School Inspections Conducted
504	24 percent of schools exceeded the requirement
1,237	59 percent of schools reported two inspections
299	14 percent of schools reported one inspection
63	3 percent of schools reported zero inspections



Some reasons cited by State Agencies for schools not meeting the two required inspections were:

- a lack of local public health inspectors in small towns and rural settings.
- insufficient staff and funding at state and local public health agencies to handle the increased inspection load.
- the fact that public health agencies prioritize inspections according to risk, and schools are a low priority.

FNS and State Agencies will continue to provide technical assistance to increase compliance. As part of administrative reviews, LEAs will be asked about the schedule of food safety inspections.

Reports issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) have indicated that outbreaks of foodborne illnesses in schools are rare. Analysis conducted by the GAO has documented that other food service establishments, such as restaurants and homes, are much more likely than schools to be implicated in foodborne illness outbreaks.

Another safety initiative required by Public Law 108-265 was the requirement of schools to implement a food safety program based on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles in the 2005-06 school year. A program based on HACCP principles is intended to prevent foodborne illnesses in school meals by ensuring the safety of food from procurement through service. Schools are the only retail food service operations currently required by federal law to have a food safety program based on HACCP principles. HACCP guidance can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/food/HACCP.htm>.

FNS has been at the forefront of food safety communication and material development for the NSLP for more than a decade. In the mid-1990s, FNS developed "Serving It Safe," an instructional manual and interactive CD-ROM for school food service personnel on food safety and food handling. The initial print order and distribution in 1996 was for about 27,500 copies that were distributed to states and LEAs. Between the years 2000-2005, subsequent revisions and distributions were made after the

NFSMI assumed responsibility for training manuals. Both English and Spanish manuals are now available. "Serving It Safe" was recognized by the National Restaurant Association as a sound food safety training tool for retail food service outlets. This manual is downloadable via the Internet at <http://www.nfsmi.org/Information/sisindex.html>.

When food recalls arise, or other food safety issues affecting the NSLP and SBP are announced, FNS uses its Rapid Alert System to allow for prompt dissemination of food safety information to all participants. All State Agencies receive these notices through the Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS). The Rapid Alert System allows potential recipients of recalled food to be notified as quickly as possible so that the product can be sequestered and removed immediately from school food services.

The School Food Services Section of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to provide local technical assistance on food safety issues, with the assistance of NFSMI and FNS, through local workshops and Web site postings.